

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A liquid water-softening composition comprising:
 - a) at least one water-softening active; and
 - b) an organic solvent;
wherein said composition contains less than 35 wt% water and has a pH when measured as a 5% wt. solution in deionised water at 20°C of between 4.0 to 6.0.
2. (original) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the at least one water softening active is an acid.
3. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the at least one water-softening active is a carboxylic acid.
4. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 2 wherein the acid is partly neutralised.
5. (currently amended) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the at least one water-softening active is a water-softening polymer.
6. (original) A composition according to claim 5 wherein the water- softening polymer is a polycarboxylic acid polymer
7. (original) A composition according to claim 6 wherein the polycarboxylic acid polymer is a polyacrylic polymer.
8. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 2_ wherein the acid water-softening active is partly neutralised by an organic base.
9. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 8 wherein the acid water-softening active that is partly neutralised is citric acid.

10. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 8 or 9 wherein the organic base is an alkanolamine.

11. (original) A composition according to claim 10 in which the alkanolamine is monoethanolamine, diethanolamine or triethanolamine.

12. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the organic solvent is a glycol, glycolether glycerine, or an alcohol or a mixture thereof.

13. (original) A composition according to claim 12 wherein the organic solvent is polyethylene glycol, glycerine, monopropylene glycol or ethanol.

14. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 which contains less than 15wt% of free water.

15. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the composition is anhydrous.

16. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 which comprises from 10 to 70 wt% of organic solvent.

17. (cancelled)

18. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 which contains a monomeric polycarboxylic acid.

19. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 1 which has a viscosity of 500 to 1,000,000cps measured using a Brookfield viscometer with spindle S31 at 12 RPM and 20°C.

20. (original) A composition according to claim 18 wherein the monomeric polycarboxylic acid is citric acid.

21. (currently amended) A water-soluble container containing a the composition according to claim 1.

22. (original) A water-soluble container containing a liquid water-softening composition comprising:
a) at least one water-softening active;
b) an organic solvent;
c) an electrolyte; and said composition containing greater than 35 wt% water.

23. (previously presented) A container according to claim 22 which comprises a thermoformed or injection moulded water-soluble polymer.

24. (previously presented) A container according to claim 22 wherein the water-soluble polymer is a poly (vinyl alcohol) or gelatin.